



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 22-1628, Version: 1

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

ANNUNZIATA “NANCY” PALESE, IN MEMORIAM

WHEREAS, Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom, called Annunziata “Nancy” Scarano Palese from our midst on January 20, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Nancy is perhaps best known for her eponymous pizza franchise and her contributions to Chicago-style pizza history; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Palese was the loving wife of the late Rocco Palese; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Palese was the beloved mother of Ted, Marisa, and Rosa, and was the cherished grandmother of nine; and

WHEREAS, Nancy was born in Brindisi Montagna, a small town in southern Italy, and married Rocco in an arranged marriage in 1948; and

WHEREAS, Nancy and Rocco made pizza in Italy and later emigrated from Italy with their children to the United States in 1969; and

WHEREAS, Nancy and Rocco’s first pizza parlor, Guy’s Pizza, featured thin-crust pizza, but their friends wanted them to pursue the burgeoning deep-dish pizza; and

WHEREAS, Nancy and Rocco decided instead to introduce their own style of pizza based on Rocco’s mother’s recipe for scarciiedda, an Easter specialty pie. Their “stuffed pizza” included a secret spice blend that was kept under lock and key; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1970s, Nancy and Rocco opened the original Nancy’s Pizza in Harwood Heights, “Home of the Original Stuffed Pizza;” and

WHEREAS, within months, Nancy and Rocco realized they had to expand their 35-seat restaurant and soon made room for 140; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Nancy and Rocco worked long hours, always focusing on quality and consistency; and

WHEREAS, Nancy and Rocco eventually sold the business to a customer-turned-employee, and the brand now has 28 locations in Illinois, Missouri, Georgia, and North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, up until recent years when her health declined, Nancy Palese, although shy, could be found holding court at the Nancy’s in Niles, the only location still in the family and owned by daughter Marisa and her husband.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby extend its deepest condolences to the family of Annunziata “Nancy” Palese; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and that a suitable copy of this resolution be tendered to the family of Nancy Palese so that her memory may be so honored and ever cherished.